

## **ABSTRACT**

The present invention is a child seat detecting apparatus for detecting the  
5 presence of a child seat in a vehicle. The child seat detecting apparatus is a tension  
sensing device that is attached to a vehicle seat. The tension sensing device includes  
a bracket that is mounted to the vehicle seat. A moveable bar is retained by the  
bracket. The moveable bar is attached to the child seat. A sensor is mounted between  
the bracket and the moveable bar. The sensor is adapted to provide an electrical signal  
10 that is indicative of a magnitude of tension on the moveable bar. A spring is located  
between the bracket and the moveable bar. The spring biases the moveable bar away  
from the bracket.